



GUIDE TO INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS

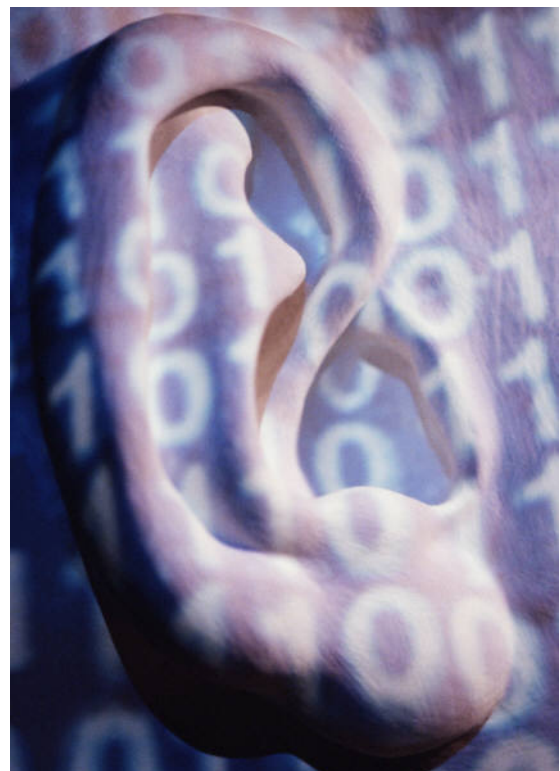
What is industrial deafness?

- **Industrial deafness** is the **deterioration** of a person's **hearing** over a prolonged period of time caused by the **exposure** to **noise** in the **working** environment
- Also known as **occupational deafness** or **noise induced hearing loss**
- Noise causes one of the most common health problems for workers
- Noise levels and the daily exposure to noise over a period of time, both contribute to hearing damage

Those particularly at **risk** include workers who have:

- **worked in heavy productive industry**, such as metal work, drilling and stone cutting, or
- **worked** in those industries which require the **operation of noisy machines**

However, a person can also **suffer** from **industrial deafness** just from working in a **noisy factory** or working environment. **Excessive noise** in the workplace can even **lead to tinnitus**.



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Tinnitus refers to the condition of **noises 'in the ears' and/or 'in the head'** with no external source. Tinnitus noises include ringing, whistling, buzzing and humming.

Can I claim?

In 1963 the **Government** produced a document confirming that **noise at work** could **cause hearing loss and tinnitus**. Since this time **employers** have had a **legal duty** to assess the **level of noise** within the work place and to **protect** their **employees** from exposure to excessive noises.

Employers **must show** that they have **taken reasonable steps** to **reduce the noise levels** where any noise is assessed as **excessive**. If the Employer **cannot restrict** the noise levels they have to **offer hearing protection** devices.

Many **employers** have **failed** to follow the **Government guidance** resulting in tens of thousands of employees suffering with industrial deafness. Therefore, if you **receive diagnosis** of suffering from **industrial deafness** or believe that you have suffered hearing loss and were exposed to noise during the course of your employment then you may be **entitled** to receive compensation for your injuries.

Time limits

There is a **3 year time limit on all claims** for industrial deafness/tinnitus from the **date** you knew or ought to know you were **suffering with the condition**. It is **important** that you contact a solicitor as soon as possible to **seek legal advice**.

Simpson Millar LLP' specialist team of dedicated and highly skilled solicitors deal with claims of this nature frequently and will advise you fully and help you to make a compensation claim.

This guide contains information on current legal issues applicable at the time of printing. Note there may have been changes subsequently which have not been incorporated in to the material. This guide is intended for information purposes only and its content should not be applied to any particular set of facts or relied upon without legal or other professional advice. For further information on how we can help you please contact:

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